IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace former specification pages 2, 16, and 18-21 with substitute specification pages 2, 16, and 18-21.**

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows*:

1. (Amended) A composition for treating HCV infection in a human, wherein said composition is optimal for treating HCV infection in said human, comprising alpha-interferon or a derivative thereof and an IMPDH inhibitor, wherein said IMPDH inhibitor is present in said composition in an amount such that a ratio of Cavg/Cmin is between 1 to 10;

wherein:

Cavg is average plasma concentration produced by said IMPDH inhibitor in said human; and

Cmin is estimated trough concentration produced by said IMPDH inhibitor in said human.

2. (Amended) A method for treating HCV infection in a human, wherein said method is optimal for treating HCV infection in said human, comprising the step of administering to said human an optimal composition comprising alpha-interferon or a derivative thereof and an IMPDH

* Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c)(1)(ii) applicants have enclosed herewith a copy of the amended claims, setting forth the amendments using bracketing and underlining (see, Appendix 1).

** Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.125 (c) and §1.125 (b)(2) applicants have enclosed herewith a clean copy of the amended specification, and a copy setting forth the amendments handwritten in red ink (see, Appendix 2a & 2b)